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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3851
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0918
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 1050

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PINT PK US

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: MOHAMMED EJAZ BHATTI

REF: STATE 215885

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING TO SENATORS CRANSTON AND HAYAKAWA IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUESTS ON BEHALF OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FOR INFORMATION ON MOHAMMAD EJAZ BHATTI. FOR SENATOR HAYAKAWA, PLEASE SEND THIS INFORMATION TO MELANIE BOWEN, OFFICE OF SENATOR HAYAKAWA, 1390 MARKET STREET, SUITE 820, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102. (MS. BOWEN'S TELEPHONE NUMBER IS: 415-556-8686.)

2. THE CONSUL GENERAL CALLED ON DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE FOR LAHORE, MR. JEHAZEB BURKI, ON JULY 20 TO SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT MOHAMMAD EJAZ BHATTI. HE DID THIS IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST MADE BY CONGRESSMAN EDWARD J. MARKEY.

3. MR. BHATTI REPEATED WHAT HE TOLD US AT THE TIME OF AN EARLIER INQUIRY LAST WINTER, NAMELY THAT EJAZ BHATTI IS BELIEVED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE AL ZULFIKAR TERRORISTS GROUP AND THAT HE IS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WEAPONS. MR. BURKI SAID THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN YET WHETHER EJAZ BHATTI WILL BE TRIED BY A MILITARY OR CIVIL COURT.

4. THE CONSUL GENERAL MENTIONED THAT MR. BURKI SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, THE FACT THAT THE PARENTS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ONLY ONE PRISON VISIT AND THE REPORT THAT EJAZ BHATTI NEEDS AN EKG BECAUSE OF A HEART CONDITION. TO EACH OF THESE CONCERNS MR. BURKI POINTED OUT THAT THE FAMILY HAS A REMEDY AT LAW, WHICH IS TO LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH EITHER THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR PRISONS, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS OR THE HOME SECRETARY (THESE ARE ALL PUNJAB PROVINCE OFFICIALS). MR. BURKI SAID THAT THE FAMILY CAN APPLY TO HAVE EJAZ BHATTI PRODUCED IN COURT IF THEY BELIEVE SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HIS TREATMENT OR IF THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIS WELFARE.

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5. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS CALL ON MR. BURKI, THE CONSUL GENERAL RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM SENATORS CRANSTON AND HAYAKAWA AND THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED ONE FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY (THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED BY LETTER). THE CONSUL GENERAL CALLED ON THE HOME SECRETARY FOR THE PROVINCE OF PUNJAB, MR. SYED NASEER AHMED, ON AUGUST 10, TO TELL HIM OF THE INTEREST OF THE THREE SENATORS AND THE CONGRESSMAN AND SPECIFICALLY TO ASK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON BHATTI'S LEGAL STATUS AND HIS HEALTH. THE HOME SECRETARY PROMISED TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION WITHIN A FEW DAYS, BUT WHEN THE CONSUL GENERAL REMINDED HIM ON AUGUST 18 THE HOME SECRETARY SAID THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL MORE DAYS.

6. WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHEN AVAILABLE.
BRIMS
END OF MESSAGE

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